

Resource Document

4

Citizen Involvement

4 Citizen Involvement.....	1
4.1 Chronology.....	2
4.2 Technical Advisors Workshop (October 1998).....	4
4.3 Community Participation Program (December 1998).....	12
4.4 Public Participation Focus Group (February 1999).....	14
4.5 Community Outreach Meetings (Summer 1999).....	16
4.6 Gallatin County Commission Survey (August 1999).....	25
4.7 Alternative Futures Focus Groups (November 1999).....	26
4.8 Alternative Futures Meetings (February 2000).....	34
4.9 Open Houses (March 2001).....	53
4.9a <u>Open Houses (March 2001) part 2</u>.....	56

MAY 15, 2001

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

4 CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT.

The Gallatin County Planning Board has been actively involving citizens in the planning process for the Gallatin County Growth Policy for over two years. Literally hundreds of people - citizens, staff, elected and appointed officials and specialists - have worked thousands of hours together over that time period to form a shared vision of the future, identify important issues and develop policy statements of how we can best achieve those desired future conditions.

We have achieved something equally important. **We have a process of community involvement that surpasses what we have known before.** The task forces, workshop, outreach meetings, alternative futures meetings, open houses, speaker groups, work groups, committees and staff time that it took to develop the Growth Policy required a new level of participatory democracy. In a time when special interest and skepticism can easily divide us, taking the time to listen carefully and with respect to one another for so many months about complex and potentially inflammatory issues represents an important accomplishment.

This is an investment in the future toward creating a sense of ownership and fairness, and makes it much more likely that the Growth Policy is connected to the people of Gallatin County. This partnership approach to planning has also helped countless numbers of citizens become more knowledgeable participants in implementation of the Growth Policy.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

4.1 CHRONOLOGY.

June, 1993:	Gallatin County Commission adopted the Gallatin County Plan describing current conditions within the County and setting forth policies to guide future change and development.
November, 1997:	Gallatin County Planning Board determined to review the Gallatin County Plan.
January, 1998:	Gallatin County Planning Board initiated the “Gallatin Plan” Program to update and critique the Gallatin County Plan.
September, 1998:	Gallatin County Planning Department announced the NSDI Community Demonstration Project supporting the “Gallatin Plan” Program.
September, 1998:	Gallatin County Planning Board recommended adoption of a revised County Plan.
October, 1998:	Gallatin County Commission adopted the revised County Plan.
October, 1998:	The Planning Board accepted Four Corners Vision Statement, Policies and Strategies after a series of community forums and outreach meetings.
October, 1998:	Two day Community Demonstration Workshop about the “Gallatin Plan” Program and GIS.
December, 1998:	The Planning Board initiated the Gallatin Plan Community Participation Program.
Jan. – Feb., 1999:	A Community “Focus Group” met to review proposed plans for a series of community outreach meetings.
February, 1999:	A special Planning Roundtable meeting was hosted by the Gallatin County Planning Board. A series of GIS “Gallatin Today” maps and the community participation program were presented.
March, 1999:	The Planning Board clarified the purpose of the Community Participation Program to “facilitate consensus on planning for Gallatin County”.
May, 1999:	The Planning Board recommended the incorporation of the 1990 Bozeman Area Master Plan Update as a revision to the Gallatin

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

County Plan in response to city-county jurisdictional rearrangements.

- May – Aug., 1999: Twelve community outreach meetings were held throughout the County.
- July, 1999: The Gallatin County Commission adopted the 1990 Bozeman Area Master Plan Update as a revision to the Gallatin County Plan.
- August, 1999: The Gallatin County Commission’s citizen survey completed.
- November, 1999: The Gallatin County Planning Board and Planning Department publicly presented a “Trend Growth” scenario demonstrating projected growth and development in Gallatin County.
- November, 1999: Three community “Focus Groups” proposed alternative variables and assumptions to be incorporated into agricultural, conservation and development growth scenarios.
- February, 2000: Community presentation of “Alternative Growth” scenarios at the Museum of the Rockies.
- June, 2000: Gallatin Plan Program, NSDI Community Demonstration Project, “Gallatin Today Maps”, and interactive mapping are available on-line at www.co.gallatin.mt.us/planning/index.htm.
- June 26, 2000: Gallatin County Community Demonstration Project was awarded the Hammer Award.
- March, 2001: Three community open houses to discuss potential growth policies.
- June, 2001: Public hearings on proposed **Growth Policy**.



F:\PLNG\CNTYPLN\draft GP timeline.doc

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

4.2 TECHNICAL ADVISORS WORKSHOP (October 1998).

NSDI/Community Mapping Demonstration Project Workshop October 29, 1998, 8:30 A.M.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>
Dressler, Paul	DOI, Federal Co-Champion
Harwood, Peggy	DOI, Federal Co-Champion
Brown, Jarvis	Gallatin Co. Commissioner
Moldroski, Denise	Gallatin Co. Environ. Health
Watson, Larry	Gallatin Co. Grants Admin.
Shepard, John	Gallatin Co. Planner
Windemaker, Lanette	Gallatin Co. Planner
Beland, R. Dale	Gallatin Co. Planning Dept.
Salmon, Nick	Gallatin Co. Planning Board
Rudberg, Joan	Local Gov., Bozeman
Vincent, Mike	Local Gov., Bozeman
Kraska, Matthew	MSU, Biology Dept.
Custer, Steve	MSU, Dept. of Earth Sciences
Burton, Gretchen	MSU, GIAC
Kohley, Tom	NGO, Beartooth Mapping
Toohill, Kevin	NGO, Beartooth Mapping
Mascolo, Patrice	NGO, Commission Candidate
Marshall, David	NGO, GIS Consultant, DTM
Deagen, Debbie	NGO, GVLT
Glick, Dennis	NGO, GYC
Wright, Bill	USDA, Co. Conserv. District

f:\plng\forms\signup.org.doc

Workshop October 29, 1998, 1:00 P.M.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>
Peek, Paul	DOI, Butte District, BLM
Snyder, Jan	DOI, Butte District, BLM
Dressler, Paul	DOI, Federal Co-Champion
Harwood, Peggy	DOI, Federal Co-Champion
Aggers, Lee	DOI, USGS, Denver
Briar, Dave	DOI, USGS, Helena
Davis, Bob	DOI, USGS, Helena
Rodman, Ann	DOI, Yellowstone Nat. Park
Armstrong, Allen	Gallatin Co. GIS Coordinator
Shepard, John	Gallatin Co. Planner
Windemaker, Lanette	Gallatin Co. Planner
Van Noy, Howard	Gallatin Co. Planning Board
Beland, R. Dale	Gallatin Co. Planning Dept.
Bradley, Dorothy	MSU, Director, Water Center

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

Burton, Gretchen	MSU, GIAC
Maxwell, Bruce	MSU, Plant & Soils Dept.
Johnson, Jerry	MSU, Political Science Dept.
Kohley, Tom	NGO, Beartooth Mapping
Toohill, Kevin	NGO, Beartooth Mapping
Thatcher, Tony	NGO, GIS Analyst, DTM
Marshall, David	NGO, GIS Consultant, DTM
Compton, Scott	State of Montana, DNRC
Wright, Bill	USDA, Co. Conserv. District
Beaulieu, Sally	USDA, District NRCS
Williams, Wendy	USDA, District NRCS
Gibson, Gene	USDA, Ranger Dist., USFS
Alvin, Katie	USDA, Specialist, NRCS
Devitt, Jim	USDA, USFS

Workshop October 30, 1998, 8:30 A.M.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>
Peek, Paul	DOI, Butte District, BLM
Snyder, Jan	DOI, Butte District, BLM
Dressler, Paul	DOI, Federal Co-Champion
Harwood, Peggy	DOI, Federal Co-Champion
Aggers, Lee	DOI, USGS
Rodman, Ann	DOI, Yellowstone Nat. Park
Murdock, Bill	Gallatin Co. Commissioner
Moldroski, Denise	Gallatin Co. Environ. Health
Armstrong, Allen	Gallatin Co. GIS Coordinator
Watson, Larry	Gallatin Co. Grants Admin.
Shepard, John	Gallatin Co. Planner
Windemaker, Lanette	Gallatin Co. Planner
Flikkema, Dick	Gallatin Co. Planning Board
Forrest, Steve	Gallatin Co. Planning Board
Van Noy, Howard	Gallatin Co. Planning Board
Beland, R. Dale	Gallatin Co. Planning Dept.
Whitson, Dave	Gallatin Co. LWQD
Vincent, Mike	Local Gov., Bozeman
Youngman, Marcia	Local Gov., Bozeman
Sitton, Jim	Local Gov., Three Forks
Kraska, Matthew	MSU, Biology Department
Burton, Gretchen	MSU, GIAC
Weaver, Ken	MSU, Local Govmnt. Center
Maxwell, Bruce	MSU, Plant & Soils Dept.
Johnson, Jerry	MSU, Political Science Dept.
Kohley, Tom	NGO, Beartooth Mapping
Toohill, Kevin	NGO, Beartooth Mapping
Mascolo, Patrice	NGO, Commission Candidate

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

Thatcher, Tony
Marshall, David
Deagen, Debbie
Glick, Dennis
Rasker, Ray
Compton, Scott
Alt, Kurt
Wright, Bill
Williams, Wendy
Devitt, Jim
Swain, Steve
Heilig, David
Alvin, Katie

NGO, GIS Analyst, DTM
NGO, GIS Consultant, DTM
NGO, GVL
NGO, GYC
NGO, Sonoran Institute
State of Montana, DNRC
State of Montana, FWP
USDA, Co. Conserv. District
USDA, District NRCS
USDA, Gallatin Forest, USFS
USDA, Gallatin Forest, USFS
USDA, NRCS
USDA, Specialist, NRCS

f:\plng\forms\signup.org3.doc

NSDI/COMMUNITY MAPPING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

MEETING NOTES October 29 & 30, 1998

Community Participation Program Session: 8:30 to 12:00

Introduction to Gallatin Plan

Gallatin Plan is the new label for Valley Plan. Tremendous amount of change in five years. Gallatin Plan Goals: inform citizens about current & potential impacts of growth; illustrate reasonable choices about ways to guide growth; support a public consensus which defines our common agreement to “grow smart.” There are three jurisdictional areas in the valley of Gallatin County and 15 zoning districts. The County Planning Board is given all other area responsibilities. Now, need to look beyond the boundaries to work out a collaborative land use policy so the pieces fit together.

Overview of GIS

Dr. Richard Aspinall, MSU/GYADC, reviewed mapping technology already available: Using visual presentation, illustrated the potential of GIS mapping, a tool for planning for development with various aspects in relationship. Clearinghouses and databases across the state can provide neutral information. Projected a digitized topography of the valley; a socioeconomic representation of population density and distributions; satellite image of land use classified into 10 categories.

Objective of Community Participation Session

Define appropriate process for community direction of the Plan update. Draft update to Gallatin Plan by July 1, 1999. Partners here today are the most valuable resource we have.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

Discussion of Community Participation Program

How do we communicate to the people the value and potential of using tools such as GIS in formulating plans for our future?

Ray Rasker spoke on how to get the public involved in embracing the Gallatin Plan. If use GIS, this has to be something that the public can easily understand. Get broad based public support.

Who is the community we want to participate?

People who own the land: farmers, ranchers, developers

People who will be directly affected by the Plan

All the municipalities (local government officials)

Non-land owning taxpayers

Planning boards

University folks

Federal land representative

Special interest groups

Business community

Special interest groups of concerned citizens

Planners outside the county who have been through this process

Environmental professionals

Recreational planners and providers

Agricultural organizations

Law enforcement, fire officials

Commonalties: focused on land; Gallatin County residents

There's the public in general and the leadership of that public. Jerry Johnson, MSU, suggested the “snowball sampling” method for identifying leadership: go to knowledgeable people for a list of 5 names and eventually you have people who have power and influence.

Concern expressed not to send a message of exclusivity. Outreach and give-and-take needs to be out there for the public throughout the process. Support expressed for “snowballing” as an efficient way to get the ball rolling.

Identify five issues, analyze using GIS tools, make maps, present to the public, take flack, modify feedback, redo maps, present again.

Four Corners Community Plan—formed a process committee.

Formulating Community Participation Program

Number one goal of meeting is to support the Gallatin Plan. Focus efforts on actually drafting the design of community participation program.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

Use “snowballing” to identify leaders. Develop themes. Present to community. Ask clusters to spatially represent their theme, i.e. draft a map where areas of conflict will likely emerge. After mapping, can go to the larger public. The spatial representation of the issue is a focus on the geography of the issue. Take a look from above as to what’s happening below.

Critical to get citizen input. Use snowball process...let the people decide what’s to be done. Once maps are completed, need to identify ways to deal with conflict—define policies that can be used to resolve problems.

Did the public agree with the reality of themes established by the leaders? Do reality testing to get some public trust.

Brief the cluster leaders on trends, initially.

Include the media intimately in snowball groups.

Focus on areas of consensus.

Beland proposes begin the snowball process tomorrow morning.

Finding a way to effectively communicate the Plan:

1. Establish leader cluster groups.
2. Define themes and spatially represent them.
3. Bring cluster maps together.
4. Identify areas of conflict and consensus.
5. Take results to the public by varying methods.
6. Develop revised plan.

Fly over Gallatin County. Have some fun!

Information Program Session:

1:00 to 4:30

Welcome. Self-Introductions.

Beland introduced the afternoon session, summarizing the Gallatin Plan Program. The focus is on GIS and how to make information useful to the community participation process.

Overview of Community Participation

The draft program of the morning was summarized.

Objective of Information Program Session

Make the GIS technology most useful for the Community Participation Program.

Introduction of Information Program proposal

Richard Aspinall presented computerized GIS visual relating technology to the needs of the Gallatin Plan.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

Discussion of Information Program

Draft proposal from 10/1—ways to organize and define information atlas. Goal to reach consensus.

Henry Shovic, Gallatin National Forest, presentation: “Greater Yellowstone Soils and Landscapes,” a visual example of GIS stuff.

How would you present information to focus group of leaders to begin the process?

- existing digital data
- reality standards—credible data
- two years only for simplicity
- reasonably similar scales

“Gallatin County 101”—discuss meaning and relationship as well as present images.

Formulating the Information Program

Animation helps to show change. Lots of information in variety of agencies all related to our common concerns about land use.

Small Group Reports:

- Use Maxwell’s photographs
- Present a “Book:” Something’s Changing in Gallatin County
Chapters: Quality of Life/Open Agricultural Land/Land Forms
- Aerial photography as prime presentation. Groups need simple map of the valley to relate to and build on themselves.
- Maps, diagrams, pictures, graphs...all have their place and effect. What’s causing change? Can we manage and direct it? To over interpret before presentation would get in the way of cluster group’s thinking and work toward solutions.
- Opportunity: Though there’s limited support for information building, there could be funding for one person to gather data for GC 101.

Final Thoughts

Use posters to broadcast our efforts.

What’s the best way to market our ideas?

Individual resource person for each “chapter” of the book.

What are the consequences of change?

Add meaning to change.

Change can be positive.

Build on idea of the book.

Technical...information to deliver to the public and the product will come from them.

How promote beyond July 1?

Interact with spatial representations in leadership groups right away.

Avoid defining what’s “right.” Stay neutral with the public.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

Community Participation/Information Program Combined Session: October 30, 1998

Welcome.

Beland gave overview. Target is to complete work on the two programs: Community Participation and GIS...

Slide show presented by Dale Beland, Gallatin County Planning Dept.

Jerry Johnson presented his ideas on “**snowballing**,” from yesterday.

“Gallatin Co. 101” would provide basic information to generate thoughts on themes.

Handout on Gallatin Plan Community Participation Process was discussed. (Yesterday’s work.)

Richard Aspinall gave his 10 minute presentation regarding the tool of GIS for the task of the Plan, using ArcView software.

Handout on Gallatin Plan Information Program was discussed. (Yesterday’s work.)

Bruce Maxwell has work done with county areas using aerial photos periodically since 1950s with land classifications for prediction. Layers, specific areas, visually effective.

Identify 10 leaders: each participant was asked to think about people in Gallatin Valley who could contribute to the county planning process. List 10 with specific planning related knowledge or experience or maybe influential in a neighborhood...and why. Names will be compiled. Each named person will be asked to expand the list.

Questions and Comments: Community Participation Process

Identify process to the community at onset. Get leadership rolling and emphasize openness to the public. Any Chronicle names? Will add Rick Weaver, Chronicle publisher. Reality check to represent major, known interest groups. Public announcement at onset from the County Planning Board? Assure geographic representation throughout the county. Design process as glass house, doors open, nonlinear. Diversify release of information methods. Put process in diagram form. Don’t lose sight of goal. Chronicle web-site. “Plan-it 2000.” Look at stimulating economics for the county.

Jan. 1, give leaders GV 101 and announce to public what is in process. Community policy with community support with protection against variances. Depends on how strong community consensus is. Never have had a clearly visioned county plan.

Questions and Comments: Information Program

Book idea to describe change and themes. What should first five chapters be?

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

Small Group Reports:

1. Critical Lands, Growth Patterns, Infrastructure, Demographics, Critical Resources
2. Geographics, Infrastructure, Economics, Quality of Life Indicators, State of the Environment
3. Introduction, Sense of Place, Quality of Life, People, Resources, Graphics, More Information
4. Past Change, Future Change, Consequences of No Change, Evaluation, Implementation
5. Land Usage, Basic Hydrology, Transportation, Socioeconomic, Environmental
6. Introduction, Transportation, Social, Economic, Wildlife Habitat, Agriculture, Water, Conclusion
7. Natural Resources, Transportation, Infrastructure, Demographics, Economics
8. Introduction, Demographics, Natural Resources, Transportation, Economics

Just give them three maps! Information source or a workbook. No predetermined choices. Give them a picture of change. Design of information packet is for staff and will be mailed to all participants.

Final Comments

Federal Reinvention Laboratory, with the six demonstration projects; County Commission will choose whether or not to participate. This is a partnership in continuing support and information.

County Planning Board: Joe Skinner, will check that agenda doesn't drive the process. Dick Flikkema agrees, keep local foundation.

Commissioner Bill Murdock: Concern we not get too far ahead on policy. Wonderful technology team. Here's our vision. Phase II deadline relaxed.

Exciting opportunity. Thank you. Workshop adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

f:\plng\valley\nsdi1098.wks.doc

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

4.3 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (December 1998).

Gallatin Plan
Community Participation Program
(Adopted by County Planning Board 12/8/98; revised 3/10/99)

GALLATIN PLAN PROGRAM: The County Planning Board and the County Commission have endorsed the Planning Department Work Task for update of the County Plan during FY 99. This update will include review or revisions to the current Plan to define land use policy based upon community input. This update task is described as “Gallatin Plan” and will consist of the Phase II Plan revision process.

The goals of the Community Participation Program are:

- to inform citizens about growth impacts and opportunities,
- to illustrate growth management options, and
- to facilitate consensus on planning for Gallatin County.

The Program will begin with a two-pronged approach; a **planning focus group** and **community outreach**.

- The **planning focus group** would consist of seven committed “grassroots” community representatives, and would exist for approximately one month. This group would be utilized to provide feedback on “Gallatin Today”, offer suggestions on outreach to the community, and discuss a process for community participation.

The intent of using a planning focus group is to give the Gallatin Plan a “grassroots” beginning. The presentation of draft alternatives, tools, and policies developed by the Planning Board or the Planning Department could be perceived by the general community as “top down”. A liaison from the Planning Board may observe the planning focus group. The planning focus group would be disbanded after completion of the mission, the members asked to continue supporting the process as active leaders, and possibly asked to reconvene at a later date to discuss alternatives or other issues.

As suggested by the October NSDI workshop, the planning focus group will be selected through a “snowball process”. Lists of people will be asked to provide additional lists of people who would be influential to the Gallatin Plan. After this has been done several times, the group of the seven appropriate people listed the most number of times would be invited to participate as the planning focus group.

The selection will include four rural (Gallatin County Planning Board jurisdiction) members and three urban (other planning board jurisdictions) members, selected with a variety of occupations and from different geographic areas. The community-at-large would be invited to participate in all aspects of the planning focus group’s process.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

- **Community outreach** will be utilized as a means to publicize the Gallatin Plan process, inform the community, and invite participation.

The Gallatin Plan process would be publicized through a combination of press releases, public service announcements and advertisements. Other media contacts may include such things as newspaper inserts, guest editorials and TV news spots.

“Gallatin Today” will be used to inform the community about growth issues-- the present situation, and changes from the past. It will be utilized in various different methods for the media contacts, to invite participation and pique interest.

A special Planning Roundtable meeting will be held in late February to announce the Gallatin Plan process. The Planning Board will invite the members from all of the other planning boards, and host the meal.

The Planning Board will designate 30 minutes on each agenda to discuss Gallatin Plan.

Upon completion of “Gallatin Today” and the focus group’s mission, the Program will have a single major emphasis on extensive **community participation**.

- **Community participation** will begin with a series outreach meetings in numerous areas of the county. The first set of outreach meetings will include an overview on the basics of planning, subdivision, and zoning; presentation of “Gallatin Today”; and a request for feedback about planning together. The second set of outreach meetings will delve into issues and alternatives of land use policy.

Active leaders, consisting of Planning Board members and members of the planning focus group, will be asked to help facilitate this outreach.

- As the community participation area meetings begin to narrow down the selection of proposed land use policy; presentations to groups, feedback forms, the web page and possibly a survey could be used to further define policy.

Upon receipt of adequate community participation in the definition of the policy, the Planning Board will determine if there is a need to proceed with an amendment to the “Gallatin County Plan”. If the Planning Board determines that there is a need to proceed with an amendment to the Plan, the Program will gear down significantly while staff is drafting the Gallatin Plan documents (“Gallatin Tomorrow” or “Gallatin 2020”). The proposed timeframe for development of the documents is dependent on Board determination.

f:\plng\valley\community participation plan4.doc

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

4.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOCUS GROUP (February 1999).

INTRODUCTION: The planning focus group is one aspect of the Gallatin Plan Community Participation Program that was adopted by the Gallatin County Planning Board on 12/8/98. The planning focus group is to consist of seven committed “grassroots” community representatives, and would exist for approximately one month. This group would be utilized to provide feedback on “Gallatin Today”, clarify and develop issues, visualize and map issues, define apparent areas of conflict and consensus, and draft alternatives, tools, and policies.

The intent of using the planning focus group is to give the Gallatin Plan a “grassroots” beginning. The presentation of draft alternatives, tools, and policies developed by the Planning Board or the Planning Department could be perceived by the general community as “top down”. All aspects of the planning focus group’s process will be open to the community-at-large. The planning focus group will be disbanded after completion of the mission, with the members asked to continue actively supporting the Gallatin Plan.

BACKGROUND: Following the initial development of the planning focus group list at the Community Demonstration Project workshop in October, the planning department sent out 462 additional requests for suggestions of names. Approximately one-third of the requests focused on agricultural producers. With a fourteen-percent response rate, the suggested planning focus group list almost tripled to 532 names. Of these, a group of only 65 names were suggested by three or more people. This process for identification of a group clearly shows that community members recognize a concentration of a small number of potentially interested people.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The following nine people (and Joe Skinner) were suggested seven or more times by members of the community.

16	Tom Milesnick	(rural, agriculture, Dry Creek)
10	Dick Morgan	(rural, agriculture, Maudlow)
9	Jerry Cashman	(suburban, landscaping, Bozeman)
9	Bill Wright	(rural, agriculture, Springhill)
8	Jane Jelinski	(urban, government relations, Bozeman)
8	Gene Townsend	(small town, local government, Three Forks)
7	Gene Cook	(urban, land development, Bozemen)
7	Mike Lane	(rural, agriculture, Three Forks)
7	Dorothy Bradley	(urban, MSU Water Center, Bozeman)

A group of seven appropriate people should be invited to participate as the planning focus group. The selection is to include four rural members and three urban members, selected with a variety of occupations and from different geographic areas.

f:\plng\valley\leads\sr011299.doc

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

“Gallatin Plan” Focus Group Mission Statement (Draft 1/19/99)

The “Gallatin Plan” Focus Group is intended to give the Gallatin Plan a “grassroots” beginning. This small group of representatives of the community have committed, in a series of quick and intensive meetings, to:

- Review and evaluate “Gallatin Today” information, maps, and charts;
- Suggest additional necessary information;
- Provide initial definition and clarification on issues of concern;
- Try to identify apparent areas of conflict and consensus; and
- Preliminarily identify potential alternatives, tools and policies.

Following completion of the mission, the Focus Group will be disbanded. The members of the Focus Group will be asked to continue supporting the Gallatin Plan Program throughout the process.

f:\plng\valley\pfg mission.doc

On February 19, 1999, the Focus Group held their third and final meeting as assigned. Members present included Gene Cook, Mike Lane, Dick Morgan, and Bill Wright. The meeting agenda was intended to discuss possible “community planning districts”. Some members said that it might be premature to try to define districts, and that this should be done at the local level by interested landowners.

Accordingly, the Focus Group decided to concentrate on the identification of feasible meeting places around the county that would be perceived as appropriate by community residents. Their recommended list of 12 sites includes the following:

Dry Creek Church, Menard Community Center, Sedan Community Center, Willow Creek Fire Hall, Three Forks School, Buffalo Jump School (?), Belgrade Fire Station #2, Churchill Bank Community Room, Four Corners Kountry Café, Gallatin Gateway School, Big Sky Fire Station, and West Yellowstone Fire Station.

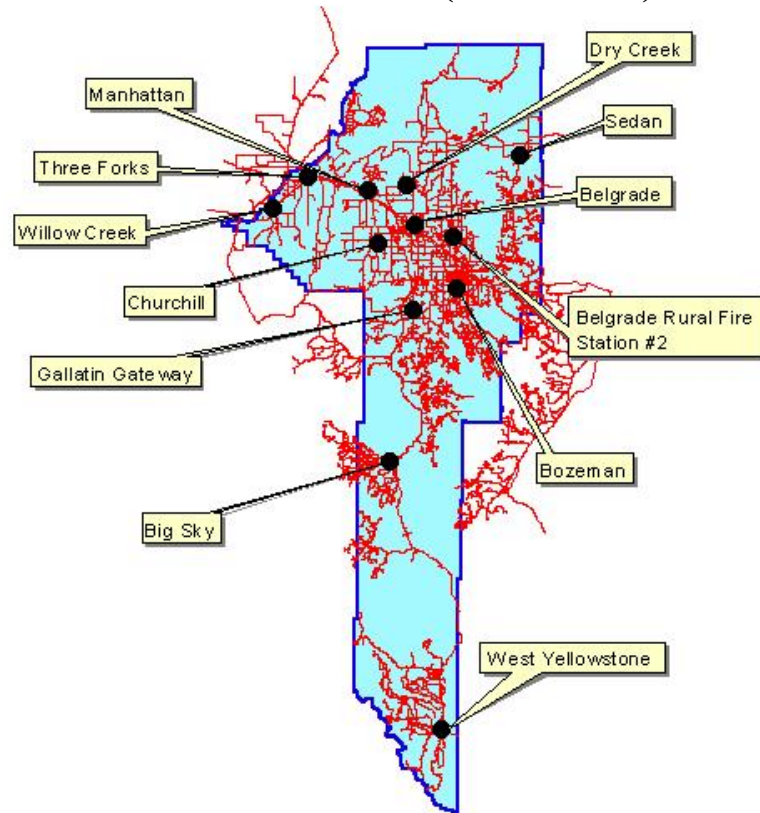
The Group urged that initial community meetings concentrate on the presentation of information about the purpose of Gallatin Plan and current trends/developments. Future meetings should respond to questions and local concerns.

Other recommendations include asking a County Commissioner to attend each meeting along with Planning Board leadership, and making an effort to contact absentee landowners.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

4.5 COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETINGS (Summer 1999).



Dry Creek Church (5/13/99)

1. Skinner welcomed 33 citizens to the meeting and introduced Gallatin Plan process. (Sign-in sheet is attached).
2. Beland presented overview of planning in Gallatin County and NSDI project.
3. Salmon presented *Gallatin Today* maps and information.
4. Burton demonstrated GIS technology. Questions asked about availability of data, workstations for public: Website, Gallatin Today Atlas/CD-ROM, wells & septic data.

Discussion:

- How are “communities” defined? People define their own neighborhoods. (Community is the County, all county residents are members of the “community”.)
- What methods do we have to put the Plan into effect? Currently, Planning Board and County Commission use Plan for subdivision review.
- Visually demonstrate existing County Plan. (Have Plan available for viewing and purchase, have a summary handout of Plan – 1 page.)
- How will new County Plan help remaining “donut” residents? Need cooperation among all jurisdictions.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

- Can maps include areas just outside of the County (e.g., industrial/commercial development across river from Three Forks)?
 - Either grow or die, but need to have “controlled growth”.
 - Think about what it is that drew you here in the first place (environmental amenities: viewsheds, wildlife, open space, etc).
 - Maybe look at what other similar places did wrong (Jackson Hole). (Examples of similar communities that are ahead of Gallatin County in growth and planning.)
 - Look at incentives and how growth is being pushed out into the County away from Bozeman (i.e., impact fees).
 - Can subdivision density or traffic be mapped?
 - Negative attitude toward zoning.
 - Positive attitude toward incentive based planning.
 - Need some planning, not a lot of regulation.
 - Do not want city people planning county. (Us / them division, not acting as a community.)
 - Some interest in county control of Manhattan donut.
 - Where will the next Interstate Interchange go.
 - Quality of life, important issue to community.
 - Need to talk to neighbors and raise interest.
 - Come back when ready for next steps, about October.
-

Belgrade Fire Station #2 (Springhill Road) (5/20/99)

1. Salmon welcomed 9 citizens to the meeting and introduced Gallatin Plan process. (Sign-in sheet is attached).
2. Windemaker presented overview of planning in Gallatin County. Question asked about SB97.
3. Skinner presented *Gallatin Today* maps and information. Questions asked about wildlife inventories, well data, specificity of data.
4. Burton demonstrated GIS technology.

Discussion:

- How does plan affect property rights? If regulations are too specific, they can be a takings. Incentives can protect property rights, give farmers option to stay on the land.
- People need information on options (such as Transfer Development Rights) before they can realize advantages. Perception that Cluster Development Bill exempted subdivisions from any public review at all.
- County Health Board is seeing septic systems fail in older subdivisions with small, small lots. Public health and safety is making it difficult to grant variances. Quantity of groundwater is as much a question as quality of water. Need wells and aquifer information. Water and sewer district(s) may be the best option.
- Going to be difficult to get people involved. Homeowners associations may be a venue.
- Conflicts will grow between people and wildlife, not just deer & elk but bears and other predators as management through hunting is restricted.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

- People are concerned about specifically “drawing lines on a map”, yet already have defacto lines directing growth by location of investments in roads, school, fire fighting capacity, etc.
 - Public boards need to work together, cooperate. Intergovernmental cooperation is important, but cities also need to be proactive if they want control.
 - Positive attitudes toward planning, zoning is a different thing. Many people perceive zoning as “some guy with a machete” preventing people from any use of property.
 - Be cautious with statistics, people in Gallatin County tend to be transitory, move in-and-out distorting standard data sources over time.
 - Planning provides a service to many different organizations, need to know where growth will be so (Fire, Schools, Roads) can expand cost effectively.
-

Churchill (Manhattan State Bank) (6/03/99)

1. Dick Flikkema welcomed five citizens to the meeting and introduced Gallatin Plan process. (Sign-in sheet is attached).
2. Beland presented overview of planning in Gallatin County. Question asked about forming and changing zoning districts.
3. Alexander & Flikkema presented *Gallatin Today* maps and information. Questions asked about mapping “special places” (visual preference surveys), traffic counts.
4. Burton demonstrated GIS technology.

Discussion:

- Concerns raised about new development increasing traffic. Too many driveways on major roads cause conflicts, lower speed limits slow everybody down, need realistic limits people actually follow. Increased driveway accesses along highways are not fair to rest of drivers. Need frontage roads and planned access.
- Jackrabbit/Amsterdam Rd intersection in Belgrade is “worst traffic design in the Valley.” Traffic to Royal Village/River Rock subdivision and school will add even more cars, trucks and buses.
- Requirements for subdividers to provide open space need to be tightened. If we don’t do anything about open space, upset citizens are going to start going to court, if only because they don’t know where else to turn.
- Laws may not help open space. For example, regulations require landowners to control weeds, but it takes the government a long time to enforce. Also keep in mind differences between suburban parks and rural open space, active vs. passive uses.
- County Plan/Growth Policy is opportunity for people to define desire for open space
- Presentation may benefit by discussion of subdivision approval process, example of a recent project changed/improved through review and public comment. How people can make a difference, not just “gradually mapping the burning of Rome”.
- Ag economy is very tight, farmers need opportunity to sell just part of their land to pay bills. Incentives might help.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

- In the past, “planning” was seen as just a step to zoning, farmers wanted no part of it. Local zoning district can mean local people make their own rules. Planning Board needs to promote and explain the zoning process and options available to citizens.
-

Three Forks High School (6/10/99)

1. Nerlin welcomed fourteen citizens to the meeting and introduced Gallatin Plan process. (Sign-in sheet is attached).
2. Beland presented overview of planning in Gallatin County.
3. Forrest presented *Gallatin Today* maps and information.
4. Burton demonstrated GIS technology.

Discussion:

- Questions asked about LWQD and inclusion in it.
 - What good is planning without implementation tools?
 - Need an issue, controversy or threat to get people interested in the process, to attend meetings, and provide feedback.
 - What are the successes and failure of the existing County Plan? Evaluate the effectiveness.
 - Need projections for the future. The costs of living in Gallatin County. A fly-over demonstrating the future projection would be useful.
 - Is a Three Forks City/County Planning Jurisdiction a possibility? What are the benefits? City/County jurisdictions are allowed by statute.
 - Can there be neighborhood planning around Three Forks? Given a detailed neighborhood plan, can the development process be made easier?
 - The current plan is wide open. Some areas have gotten more specific with additional planning and/or zoning.
 - How do we protect the Three Forks airport?
 - Zoning changes the value of land and isn't that a taking? All zoning in Gallatin County is by citizen petition. Zoning has been through the courts and it is a proper use of police power.
 - How do we use the plan? Is it adequate?
 - The Plan is not law, but when decisions are based solely on the Plan it becomes law.
 - Planning is not all zoning and subdivision, it includes such things as transportation and trails.
 - Maybe land uses that are costing \$1.45 in services for every \$1 they pay in taxes should be paying \$1.65.
-

Belgrade City Hall (6/29/99)

1. VanNoy welcomed thirty citizens to the meeting and introduced Gallatin Plan process. (Sign-in sheet is attached).
2. Beland presented overview of planning in Gallatin County.
3. Skinner presented *Gallatin Today* maps and information.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

4. Burton demonstrated GIS technology.

Discussion:

- Questions asked about availability of Gallatin Today data, when a website will be functional, other data sets (eg. current and historic rail lines, wildlife, aquifer recharge).
- Gallatin Plan revision is driven by community response and may take awhile. People will tell the Planning Board what needs to change or improve, be general or specific.
- Property owners need some level of predictability. Originally people asked that the Plan be a general guideline. Experience points to need for detail.
- As we grow, need to identify resources valued by people for protection, then other areas where development and public investment are appropriate.
- SB97 will allow expedited review in specific “growth areas” with adopted Growth Policy.
- Zoning may try to protect property, but process can get complicated.
- Need to be careful with map sources. Gallatin Today map series intended to look at entire County; scale limits site-specific analysis but people will use inappropriate maps anyway (eg. Critical Lands Study).
- How is “Community” defined? Is it just the people who show up? Surveys may reach a lot of people, but presupposes the questions, need a conversation about people’s concerns.
- Transfer of Development Rights can help farmers stay farming. Planning Board and Open Lands Board supported Hargrove bill, will be looking at future options.

West Yellowstone Fire Station (7/01/99)

1. Griffith welcomed five citizens to the meeting and introduced Gallatin Plan process. (Sign-in sheet is attached).
2. Beland presented overview of planning in Gallatin County.
3. VanNoy presented *Gallatin Today* maps and information.
4. Burton demonstrated GIS technology.

Discussion:

- Although Gallatin County Planning Board jurisdiction covers only the small area of private land west of the Town of West Yellowstone, it is important to share information and look at impacts of plans from County, Town and Hebgen Lake Zoning District.
- Questions asked about initiating and amending zoning, better coordination between Planning Board jurisdiction and zoning districts.
- Citizens often feel County and State ignore West Yellowstone-area issues. Example of local campground caught on film dumping raw sewage and nobody from Bozeman or Helena would respond.
- County maps often don’t map West Yellowstone-area data. However, sources are less available in non-agricultural areas (e.g. NRCS doesn’t map soils in National Forest). Forest Service maps can be misleading, show roads that aren’t available due to closures and trail conversion.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

Ophir School (7/01/99)

Griffith welcomed five citizens to the meeting and all in attendance introduced themselves. (Sign-in sheet is attached). Around the table, Beland was joined by Griffith, Van Noy and Salmon in a discussion of planning in Gallatin County, while Burton demonstrated the GIS technology.

Discussion:

- Although Gallatin County Planning Board jurisdiction south of the Valley covers only a portion of the Gallatin Canyon and the small area of private land west of the town of West Yellowstone, its important to share information and look at impacts of plans from the State, County, zoning districts.
 - Questions asked about inclusion in Local Water Quality District, addressing cumulative impacts of growth.
 - Currently, communication is good between Madison County and Gallatin County commissioners, and with Forest Service and MT Fish Wildlife & Parks. Yet public doesn't know what's planned “behind closed doors and locked gates” of private developers.
 - Access to old lots (paper parcels) needs to be resolved, essential for fire protection.
 - Questions asked about incorporating open space and trails into County Plan. Planning Board is appointing an advisory committee, and is also working with wildlife studies in Big Sky-area as well as the county-wide habitat assessment recently completed by MSU.
 - Need to keep zoning maps up-to-date.
-

Gallatin Gateway School (7/08/99)

1. Griffith welcomed fourteen citizens to the meeting and introduced Gallatin Plan process. (Sign-in sheet is attached).
2. Beland presented overview of planning in Gallatin County.
3. VanNoy presented *Gallatin Today* maps and information.
4. Burton demonstrated GIS technology.

Discussion:

- Questions asked about availability of Gallatin Today data, accessing data over Internet, other data sets (wildlife habitat vs. migration corridors, prime agricultural lands).
- Important to examine details of well data—deep irrigation wells vs. shallow residential wells, one time vs. cumulative effects, quantity vs. quality—especially for useful analysis of septic systems & contaminant flows.
- Questions asked about zoning districts, process for establishment, bringing existing districts under Planning Board coordination. Comments in favor of County oversight of Bozeman Area zoning.
- Farm owners need options other than conservation easements. Sen. Hargrove's Ag Heritage bill a first step, Cluster Development bill to an interim committee.

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

- People are concerned about large homes built on ridgelines. To preserve prime agricultural land, moved building off of the Valley floor; so if not on the hillsides, then where? Common problem in several Western Montana cities. Balance preservation with private property rights.
- SB97 gives an opportunity to define “growth areas” with adopted Growth Policy, so we can provide incentives for growth in appropriate areas.
- Planning Board will be appointing a trails advisory committee.

Forrest asked attendees what they would like to see the Planning Board bring back to the next round of public meetings:

- Explain what the Plan does (and doesn't) do now, what our policies are, how to improve predictability, what immediate difficulties are coming up now.
 - Case studies might illustrate process, how development is done now vs how we might improve with new data, etc.
-

Sedan Community Hall (7/22/99)

McSpadden welcomed three citizens to the meeting and all in attendance introduced themselves. (Sign-in sheet is attached). McSpadden, Salmon, and Shepard discussed planning in Gallatin County, while Burton demonstrated the GIS technology.

Discussion:

- Questions asked about availability of Gallatin Today data, accessing data over Internet, other data sets (water quality & quantity, prime agricultural lands).
 - Questions asked about status of County Plan and pending lawsuit. Why is Greater Yellowstone Coalition involved?
 - Zoning might help implement the Plan, but can be changed by County Commission without local involvement (no local election). County Commission can reject Planning Board recommendations. Planning Board needs to hold public hearings in areas where projects happen so people can attend.
 - Need to use the data already being collected. Citizens are required to file (& pay for) septic permits, use that data to look at what's going on. And do it before development is too far along. Planning Board needs to use scientific population projections, not just straight-line, explain what assumptions and why. Projections will indicate where to focus, then water data will indicate potential problems.
 - County may say Agriculture is the #1 resource, but doesn't seem to value farmers and ranchers, just open space
 - Not realistic to stop growth, Planning Board adds value by shaping new development to protect what's already here. Plan can present alternatives, e.g. if subdivision happens, it should look this way at Sedan, and that way next to Bozeman.
 - Private property rights are important, but regulation gives predictability when local people have real opportunity to be heard.
-

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 4: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

Manhattan Senior Center (8/05/99)

1. Skinner welcomed two citizens to the meeting and all in attendance introduced themselves. (Sign-in sheet is attached).
2. Windemaker presented overview of planning in Gallatin County.
3. Alexander presented *Gallatin Today* maps and information.
4. Shepard demonstrated GIS technology.

Discussion:

- Questions asked about school taxes in Cost of Services Study, status of Manhattan ‘Donut’ planning/zoning jurisdiction, SB 97 (“growth policy”) requirements.
 - Residents prefer Manhattan stay small, stay ag-oriented; but resist paying more taxes to preserve open space and agriculture. People move to Gallatin Valley for rural lifestyle, then want to cut it all up into 10- and 20-acre lots.
 - Unrealistic that the Valley won’t change, need somewhere for people to go.
 - People only get shook up when it’s too late, County needs to stick up for itself with the Master Plan.
 - Residents say “don’t be another Belgrade”, feeling growth pressure moving out. Need to be proactive to prevent Belgrade sprawl spreading west.
 - Quality development sells. Successful residential subdivisions are well designed, have sufficient provision of infrastructure (roads, water, storm drains, etc.) and open space.
 - New development has to pay its own way. There will be trade-offs with development at the Manhattan I-90 interchange; have to look at existing infrastructure in town, cost of extending services out onto ag ground.
 - Master Plan is important guide for growth, have to be careful to protect private property rights.
-

Sacajawea Middle School (8/17/99)

1. Salmon welcomed 42 citizens to the meeting. (Sign-in sheet attached).
2. Beland presented overview of planning in Gallatin County.
3. Skinner presented *Gallatin Today* maps and information.
4. Burton demonstrated GIS technology.

Discussion:

- Questions asked about SB 97 (“growth policy”) requirements.
- Suggested additional maps include air quality, road quality, build-out analysis, natural hazard, and affordable housing (could be done by using the DOR taxable value on a half section average).
- Need for alternative scenarios emphasized.
- Need for county-initiated, countywide zoning discussed.
- Need to cooperate and collaborate with other jurisdictions discussed (Butte/Silver Bow example).
- Usefulness of current plan discussed. Planning Board members expressed the need for a higher level of predictability.